

Good Neighbor Environmental Board

MONTHLY ROUND-UP - MAY 2000

Volume 1, Number 3

Board News

MEETINGS

Las Cruces Meeting - A total of 46 people attended the Board's first meeting during 2000 on May 25-26 in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Attendees included 18 Board Members, 7 EPA representatives, and 21 guests.

Speakers: Dan Reyna from the New Mexico Department of Health's Border Health Office; Councilman Jack Valencia of Las Cruces; New Mexico State Senator Fernando Macias; and Alice Salcido from U.S. Senator Bingaman's Office. Board members reported out on the status of various border programs and were briefed on the status of Mexico's Consejo Region 1 advisory group. During the public comment session, members of the public voiced their concerns about local environmental issues and called on the Board to build these concerns into its recommendations.

Business covered: the upcoming Fourth Report to the President and Congress; the Five Year Study, membership recruitment, effective communication and outreach; and the role of the Board's four workgroups during the coming year.

A highlight: the quality of interaction with guests, both through the public comment session and more informal discussions. Board members said they wanted to replicate it at future meetings.

Next Board Meeting - The next meeting of the Board has been set for September 19-20 in El Paso, Texas. It will take place back-to-back with the next meeting of EPA's Border XXI program. Good Neighbor will hold its own separate session on the 19th as well as have a pre-meeting working session for its four workgroups on the afternoon of the 18th. Details to follow.

Final Meeting of 2000 - Good Neighbor's final meeting this year will be in Brownsville, Texas, on November 2-3. Workgroups will meet on the afternoon of November 1.

PUBLICATIONS AND WEB SITE

Fourth Report - Good Neighbor's Fourth Report to the President and Congress will have a watershed theme and will be available in both English and Spanish. Publication date is August.

Brochure - A general brochure that gives an overview of the work of the Board also is being produced. Publication is scheduled for late July or August.

Web site - Good Neighbor's web site has been redesigned. One of the new items is a historical snapshot of the Board's work since its inception. Check out the site at www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb-page.htm.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Five-Year Study - The Board's study of its first five years is moving forward. Goal: analyze its past in order to strategically plan next steps. The first product: a historical snapshot of the Board's work, has been completed. Next: the Board will survey former Board members, Congressional and Executive Branch staff, former Designated Federal Officials, and others.

MEMBERSHIP

New Board Members - Four new members have joined the Board during the past month: Jose Bravo, of the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice; Karen Chapman, of the Texas Center for Policy Studies; Ed Ranger, of Carlsmith Ball; and Nancy Sutley, of the California Environmental Protection Agency. On behalf of the Board, a warm welcome to all of you.

Recruitment, Term Renewals - Except for the four new Board members, all of the terms of the non-federal members of Good Neighbor are scheduled to be completed in September of 2000. Each of these members will be contacted during the next several months to discuss possibilities for term renewal.

Recruitment for federal advisory committees is an ongoing process, and the Good Neighbor Environmental Board is no exception. Diversity within its membership is a top priority to ensure that a wide range of perspectives are brought to the table and carefully deliberated in advance of reaching consensus on its recommendations.

Diversity for Good Neighbor takes many forms: representation from all four U.S. states that border Mexico; from all levels of government as well as tribes; and from both the private sector as well as non-profit groups. The recruitment and appointment process sometimes becomes complicated in that there may be several well-qualified individuals who are available to serve in one area, and a shortage in another.

EPA Administrator Carol Browner makes the final decision on who is offered an appointment to serve on the Board. Non-federal members of Good Neighbor serve two-year terms, which may be renewed. Federal members serve on a continuing basis and are appointed by their respective agencies or departments.

WORKGROUPS

Profiles, Work plans - Workgroups are developing one-page profiles of their activities. They also are developing work plans to guide their activities during the coming year.

June teleconference calls:

(Phone-in numbers and access codes as usual)

Coordination with Mexico Workgroup: Tuesday, June 13, 11 Eastern, 10 Central, 9 Mountain, 8 Pacific Time.

Infrastructure Workgroup: Thursday, June 8, 11 Eastern, 10 Central, 9 Mountain, 8 Pacific Time.

Private Sector Workgroup: Wednesday, June 14, noon Eastern, 11 Central, 10 Mountain, 9 Pacific Time.

Sustainable Development Workgroup: Wednesday, June 21, noon Eastern, 11 Central, 10 Mountain, 9 Pacific Time.

General News, Resources

****Note: The items in the section below have been cut-and-pasted and compiled from other documents. If you are interested in any of the items, please go to the primary source to ensure complete accuracy.****

ISSUES

Collaboration

- **DOT and EPA:** signed an MOU to improve coordination of state and local air quality and transportation issues. See epa.gov/oms/traq and click on the word conformity.

- **HUD and SEDESOL:** signed a joint declaration on May 18 to promote cooperation on housing and economic development issues. It was signed during a working group meeting held after the Binational Commission (BNC) plenary.

- **EPA and SEMARNAP:** Also during the BNC, EPA Administrator Browner and Mexico's environmental minister Carabias met to review bilateral environmental progress over the past six years.

- **Border Governors:** At the 18th Border Governors Conference, a joint declaration was signed to position the border region for the global marketplace. See www.bgc2000.com

Grants/Pilots

- **EPA:** announced a new community grants initiative, Innovative Community Partnerships. One possible priority area: restoration and protection of community watersheds and airsheds. See www.epa.gov/livability/grants/update.htm.

- **New Mexico DOH/PHD Border Health Office:** issued an RFP to conduct an evaluation of policies that affect environmental and public health of southern New Mexico residents. Proposal deadline: June 16. Contact: Kitty Richards, Border Health Office, (505) 528-5152.

- **CDC:** announced funding for a training program for Hispanic and Native American students to introduce them to opportunities in public health and laboratory science. Application deadline: July 21. Application kits: call 1-888-472-6874.

On-line Subscriptions

- **WaterNews:** an on-line weekly publication that covers current EPA Office of Water activities. To subscribe, go to www.epa.gov/ow/waternews/html.

- **Sustainability Review:** goes out on-line every other week. Subscribers from 38 countries. See Includes methodologies, tools, and success stories. See www.eeeeee.net

Reports

- **Southwest Border Task Force:** presented its report to the Vice President. It recommends 16 new initiatives, including Wiring the Border. See www.treas.gov/sw/border/
- **EPA:** released a report showing how the economy depends on clean water. Title is "Liquid Assets 2000: America's Resources at a Turning Point." See www.epa.gov/ow/liquidassets, under What's New.

CALENDAR

Note: Event listings below have been drawn from other lists and may be changed. Please check a primary source of information for more details.

- June 8 - EPA San Diego Open House, San Diego, California
- June 11-13 - Commission for Environmental Cooperation Council (CEC) Session, Dallas/Ft Worth, Texas
- June 11-13 - National Advisory Committee (NAC) & Government Advisory Committee (GAC) meeting under CEC/NAFTA, Dallas/Ft Worth, Texas
- June 14 - Rio Grande-Rio Bravo Binational Symposium, co-sponsored by DOI, SEMARNAP, and IBWC, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico
- June 14 - EPA El Paso Border Office Monthly Open House, El Paso, Texas
- June 21-24 - 6th International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment, Montreal, Canada
- June 22 - BECC Public Meeting of the Board of Directors, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico
- June 29 - SCERP briefing on border applied research, environmental issues, Washington, D.C.
- July 8-12 - Watershed 2000, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- July 11 - NADBank public meeting of the Board of Directors, San Antonio, Texas
- Sept 6-9 - National Advisory Committee (NAC) & Government Advisory Committee (GAC) meeting under CEC/NAFTA, San Diego, California
- Sept 12-14 - ExpoAgua 2000 Conference and Exposition, Monterrey, Mexico
- Sept 19-20 - Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meeting, El Paso, Texas
- Sept 20-22 - Border XXI Meeting, El Paso, Texas
- Sept 29-30 - Lower Colorado River/Delta Forum, Tucson, Arizona
- November 2-3 - Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meeting, Brownsville, Texas

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